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PRESS RELEASE

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Assembly Judiciary Committee Hears Assembly Bill 503

Madison – Yesterday, the Assembly Committee on Judiciary, held a public hearing on Assembly Bill 503. The bill, introduced by Representatives John Murtha (R-Baldwin), Dave Heaton (R-Wausau), Al Ott (R-Forest Junction) and Senator Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls), would add one additional circuit court judge in Dunn, Calumet, Wood, Marathon, Polk, Jackson, and Vilas counties.

“The State Courts conducted a systematic study for weighted caseload analysis in order to determine exactly which counties needed additional judgeships the most,” said Murtha at yesterday’s hearing. Through that investigation, it was made clear that due to the number of cases in those counties, additional judges were necessary.

“I’m glad the State Courts brought this to my attention,” said Murtha. “I believe we need to give these counties the necessary resources to deal with their judicial needs. Hopefully, the bill progresses and we can have more judges on the bench.”

If passed, most of the seven counties could expect to have judicial elections in the spring of 2017. The bill can now be scheduled for an executive session in the Assembly Committee on Judiciary.

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